TRACKS 2006 ATLANTA, GA

Implementing The Tracking Network

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 27

TITLE
THE CASE FOR PESTICIDE SURVEILLANCE IN A NATIONAL EPHT NETWORK

TRACK
Network Content

OBJECTIVES
Local pesticide surveillance reveals different populations at risk of exposure and health outcomes associated with pesticides than national systems.

Different findings have implications for public health prevention.

SUMMARY
Several states and one city have embarked on preliminary pesticide surveillance as part of their capacity-building and demonstration Tracking programs. As Tracking matures, surveillance of pesticides and health outcomes may provide important information to promote local public health. Existing national surveillance systems provide valuable information: the TESS poison control center system provides data on suspected and confirmed pesticide poisonings; NIOSH's SENSOR program gathers reports on pesticide illness and injury mainly from occupational exposures; NHANES describes exposures among the general population but little about subgroups or about sources of exposure.

In contrast to national surveillance findings, New York City's pesticide tracking efforts observed that: pesticide poisonings as reported to the Poison Control Center overwhelming occurred in the home, and to children; visits to Emergency Departments occurred mostly to children and from the use of rodenticides; admissions to hospitals disproportionately were among residents in low-income neighborhoods with Medicaid as the primary payer, with over $1.5 million in hospitalization costs. Cockroach and rodent infestation rates drive neighborhood and demographic disparities in these health outcomes, with off-the-shelf and illegal pesticides important contributors to pesticide exposures.

These findings demonstrate that additional and local pesticide surveillance reveal threats to the environment and public health that are not reflected in national pesticide surveillance systems. These findings have implications for appropriate and targeted preventive educational, programmatic, enforcement and policy interventions. Continuing to expand the collection and synthesis of available pesticide data has the potential to benefit the public in multiple jurisdictions.

AUTHOR(S):
J. Bryan Jacobson, M.P.H.
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Daniel Kass
Caroline Bragdon
Wendy McKelvey

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program